In the embodiments shown in Figure 3, the blood sample after centrifuging separates into

a layer of red blood cells 66, a granulocyte cell fraction layer 68, a mononuclear cell fraction 70,

a plasma fraction 72 and a platelet/plasma interface 74. In a positive selection process,

microbeads 64 have an affinity for the target compound and collect in channels 62. Alternatively,

microbeads 64 can have an affinity for white and/ or red blood cells in a negative selection

process. Channels 62 are formed between ribs 60 and are enclosed by top wall 34 of container

32. Inclined leading edge 56 and inclined trailing edge 58 divert the sample through channels 62

as float 48 slides through container 32. Microbeads 64 are retained in a thin layer in channels 62

close to top wall 34 of container 32 so that the microbeads 64 can be visualized through top wall

34 by microscopy or other analytical methods as known in the art. Preferably, front wall 34 of

container 32 is substantially flat to prevent the optical distortion normally associated with

cylindrical containers.--

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 23 and 32 without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter

contained therein.

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (amended) A method of separating components from a sample material, said method comprising

the steps of:

> providing a sample material in a sampling container, said sampling container having a

focusing device with a passage for receiving and elongating layers of sample components to be

harvested from said sample,